The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) is a cornerstone of counterterrorism information sharing. Jointly managed by FBI and DHS, the NSI enables law enforcement organizations to share ISE-SARs - suspicious activity reports which have been vetted and determined to have a potential nexus to terrorism.

For NSI to work, it must meet the operational and mission needs of the complex threat environment we face.

As the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, I am issuing an update to the current Functional Standard (FS), version 1.5, released in May 2009. This update, which we're calling FS 1.5.5, clarifies a number of policy, administrative, and technical issues that were identified in the implementation of the NSI.

FS 1.5.5 was developed collaboratively between ISE partners at the federal, state, and local level. The result is a document reflecting the current state of NSI operations and providing greater clarity into NSI principles for analysts and supervisors.

These updates, which provide greater transparency and clearer guidance to the ISE-SAR

process, include:

1. Clarifying the ISE-SAR process, key operational concepts, and including definitions for terms such as "reasonably indicative."
2. Upholding strong protections for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in the NSI.
3. Updating NSI technical diagrams to reflect the current NSI technical platform (updated in January 2014).
4. Clarifying language around the 16 pre-operational behaviors that may have a potential nexus to terrorism found in Part B of the FS.
5. Adding descriptive behavioral examples to provide analysts with examples of actual ISE-SAR entries that will assist them in their decision-making process of whether a particular SAR meets the ISE-SAR threshold.

FS 1.5.5 allows for a flexible process for updating the new Part B behavior examples so they can be relevant and responsive to analysts as the threat environment evolves. The existing formal process remains in place for significant and substantive updates, to include reviewing and updating the 16 pre-operational behavior categories in Part B.

ISE SAR Functional Standard 1.5.5